Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 3 and 6 remain in the application. Claims 1, 3 and 6 have been amended. Claims 2 and 4-5 have been cancelled.

In item 1 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) as not including the reference sign "26" mentioned in the description.

The reference sign "26" has been added to Fig. 2 to indicate the axis of the roller (15).

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the drawings have been objected to because Fig. 3 uses similar data delimiters, i.e. diamonds, squares, and triangles, for multiple lines of data, which makes it unclear which data lines are meant to represent the different test cases.

Fig. 3 has been amended to avoid lines of the same shape for different curves. It should be clear now which line corresponds to which case from the legend of Fig. 3.

In item 3 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 2 and 3 have been objected to because of an formality. Appropriate correction has been made.

In item 5 on page 3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1, 4 and 5 have been rejected as being anticipated by Lusar et al. (US Pat. No. 5,907,999) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

The rejection has been noted and claim 1 has been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. More specifically, the feature of claim 2 has been added to claim 1.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

> adjusting a quantity of ink as a function of a printing speed, and including, upon the occurrence of a change in the printing speed, making a change in the quantity of ink as a function of an area coverage to be printed; and
>
> changing an ink stripe length for adjusting a requisite quantity of ink. (Emphasis added.)

As the Examiner has correctly stated, Lusar et al. do not teach a method of adjusting a quantity of ink, which includes changing the stripe length for adjusting a requisite quantity

of ink (see the second paragraph from bottom on page 4 of the Office action).

Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over Lusar et al. Claims 4-5 have been cancelled.

In item 8 on pages 4-5 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 2-3 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Lusar et al. in view of Rambausek (US Pat. No. 5,040,459) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The Rambausek reference is owned by the corporate assignee of the instant application and Applicants are therefore very familiar with this reference.

Since the feature of claim 2 has been added to claim 1, the following discussion is directed to amended claim 1.

Rambausek describes a method of varying the thickness over the width of the printing form (see column 1, line 26), namely varying the thickness of the ink stripe (see column 1, line 23). This can be observed from the many times that the thickness of the ink film is mentioned in Rambausek (see, for example, column 2, line 27 and column 4, line 41). In column 6, lines 20-25, Rambausek teaches scanning ink stripes having

a width corresponding to the scanning width of the scanning head.

However, Rambausek does not teach a method of changing the ink stripe length for adjusting a requisite quantity of ink. Also, Rambausek does not provide any hint which could lead a person skilled in the art to the method of the invention of the instant application.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since claim is dependent on claim 1, it is believed to be patentable as well.

In item 9 on pages 5-6 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 6 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Lusar et al. in view of Muller et al. (US Pat. No. 5,590,599) and Rambausek under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As will be explained below, it is believed that claim 6 was patentable over the cited art in its original form and claim 6 has, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 6 calls for, inter alia:

> a control device for adjusting a contact length of said ductor roller on said ink duct roller as a function of printing speed, said control device being connected to a memory having stored therein values for an ink stripe length as a function of the printing speed and an area coverage to be printed, said control device serving for adjusting the ink stripe length as a function of the printing speed and the area coverage. (Emphasis added.)

As discussed above, Lusar et al. and Rambausek do not disclose a method or a structure of changing the ink stripe length for adjusting a requisite quantity of ink. Therefore, the references cannot teach a control device serving for adjusting the ink stripe length as a function of the printing speed and the area coverage, as recited in claim 6 of the instant application.

Muller et al. teach a doctor roller pivotable between an ink fountain and a first inking roller. However, Muller et al. do not teach a device to vary the length of an ink stripe. The reference teaches only varying the width of an ink stripe.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 6. Claim 6 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3 and 6 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

For Applicants

LAURENCE A. GREENBERG
REG. NO. 29,308

YHC:cgm

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Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101

Marked-Up Version of the Amended Claims:

Claim 1(amended). A method of adjusting a quantity of ink supplied to a printing material by a printing machine, which comprises:

adjusting [the] a quantity of ink as a function of [the] a printing speed, and including, upon the occurrence of a change in the printing speed, making a change in the quantity of ink as a function of an area coverage to be printed; and

changing an ink stripe length for adjusting a requisite quantity of ink.

Claim 3(amended). The method according to claim [2] 1, which includes: storing characteristics for the ink stripe length for various area coverages as a function of the printing speed and, upon the occurrence of a change in the printing speed, varying the ink stripe length in accordance with a respective characteristic.

Claim 6(amended). A device for printing a printing material, comprising:

an ink duct having an ink duct roller, a pivotable ductor roller and a transfer roller, said ductor roller [being

bringable] to be brought into contact both with said ink duct roller and said transfer roller, said transfer roller serving for transferring a quantity of ink transferrable from said ductor roller to the printing material via further rollers[,]; and

a control device for adjusting a contact length of said ductor roller on said ink duct roller as a function of printing speed, said control device being connected to a memory having stored therein values for an ink stripe length as a function of the printing speed and an area coverage to be printed, said control device serving for adjusting the ink stripe length as a function of the printing speed and the area coverage.

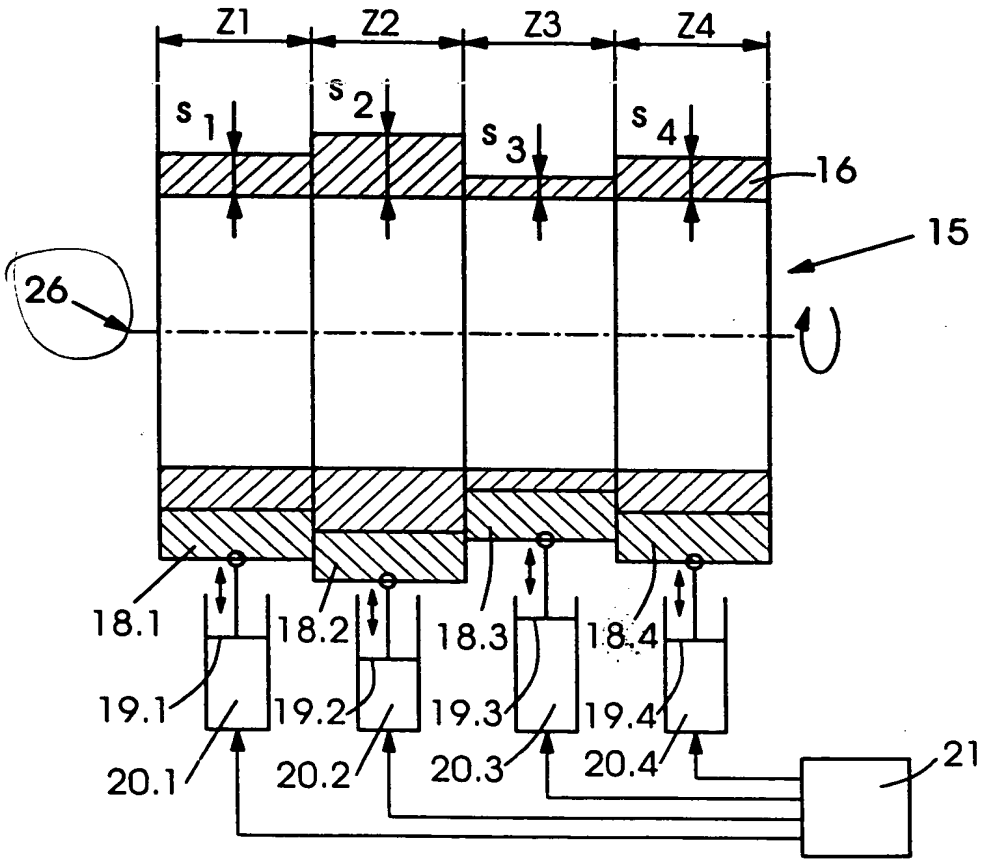

Fig.2

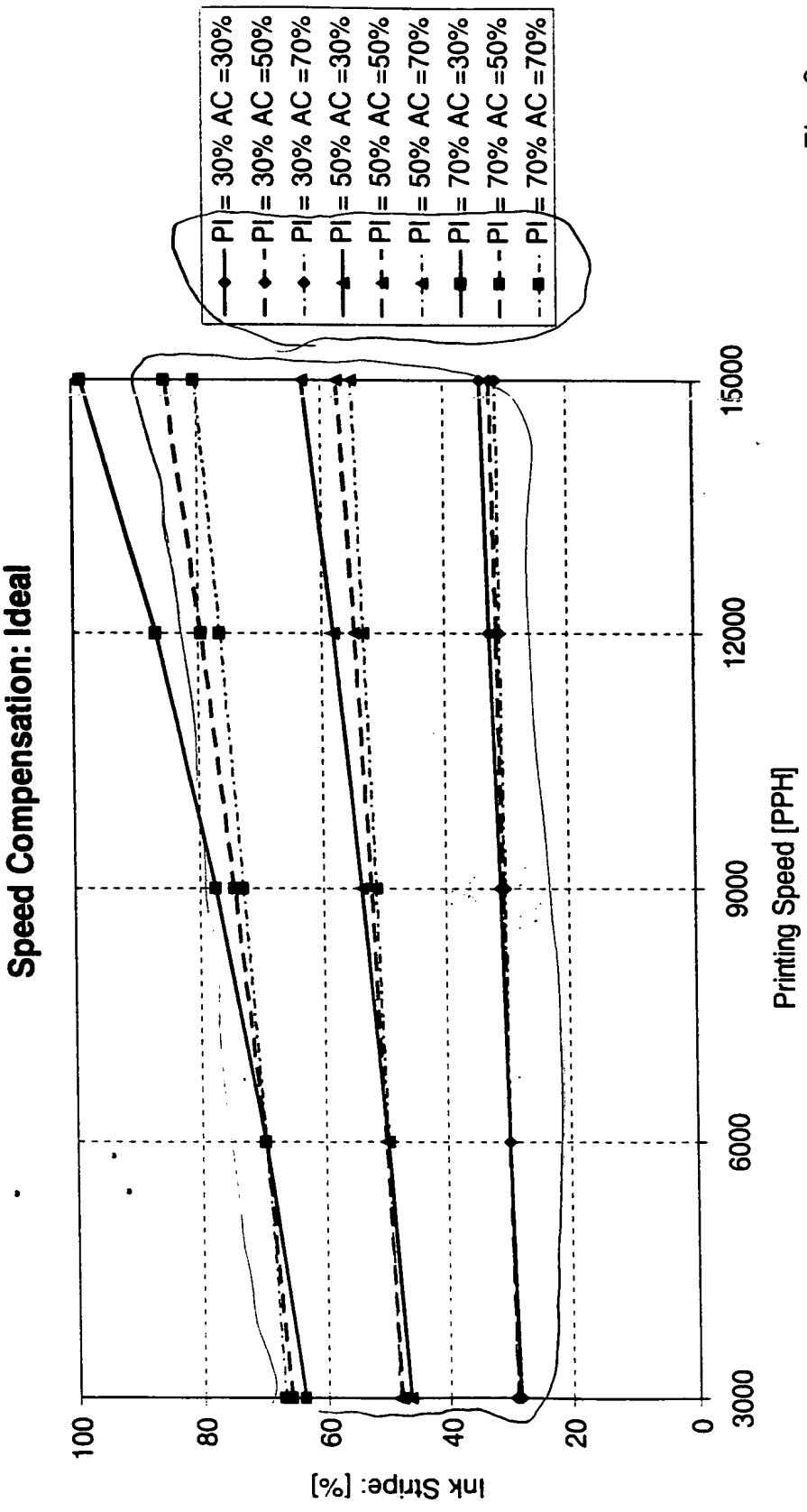

Fig.3